

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPTE-00 EB-07 OPR-02 COME-00 SCSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /023 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7092

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1875

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CGEN, CF

SUBJ: GULF OIL PLANS TO CONTINUE TRANSITING POINTE NOIRE

REF: STATE 269745

1. EMBASSY ADVISED GULF OIL LIBREVILLE OF WARNING REFTEL THAT AMERICANS NOT VISIT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CONGO. GULF HAS BEGUN USING POINTE NOIRE AS TRANSIT POINT FOR BIWEEKLY CREW CHANGE FOR ITS RIG IN SOUTHERN GABONESE WATERS. CREWS MOSTLY SPANISH BUT THERE ABOUT SIX AMCITS IN EACH OF TWO CREWS. FIRST CREW CHANGE NOVEMBER 11 WENT SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT PROBLEM. IN SPITE OF WARNING REFTEL GULF INTENDS TO CONTINUE USING POINTE NOIRE AT LEAST IN SHORT TERM AND DOES NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL HAVE ANY PROBLEMS. A NON-AMERICAN GULF REPRESENTATIVE IS IN POINTE NOIRE TO ASSIST WITH CHANGES.

2. MECHANICS OF CREW CHANGE INVOLVE CHARTERED PLANE AND BOAT BOTH ARRIVING IN POINTE NOIRE AT SAME TIME, SO THAT CREWS SPEND LESS THAN ONE HOUR IN POINTE NOIRE. NEXT CREW CHANGE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 25. STEIGMAN

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